(d) The entire production of Iron ore from each mines has been despatched for export.

Gauge Conversion

2944. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert Yelahanka and Bangarpet narrow gauge line into meter gauge; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Gauge Conversion of Yellahanka-Chickballapur has already been completed. Work on Bangarpet-Kolar has been taken up and is likely to be completed in this financial year. Kolar-Chickballapur will be taken up in the coming years.

Local Call Facility

2945. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal to provide facility of local calls to all the cities/towns included in the National Capital Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Local call means a call from a subscriber's line to another subscriber line on any exchange within the same exchange system (local area). Telephone exchanges in various cities/towns of National Capital Retion have separate local areas of their own. As such local call facility to all cities/towns in National Capital Region is not admissible.

Introduction of Express Train from Bhubaneswar to Koraput

2946. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce an Express Train from Bhubaneswar to Koraput via Rayagada after commissioning of the Koraput-Rayagada new B.G. rail link;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in introduction of said train;

(c) the steps taken in this direction; and

(d) the time by which the train is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). An Express train connection between Bhubaneswar and Koraput via Rayagada will be provided on availability of clearance for passenger train running on the Koraput-Rayagada line.

There has been delay in receipt of Commissioner of Railway Satety's sanction on account of certain technical constraints in the tunnels in the newly constructed section.

[Translation]

Termination of Trains Running on Narrow Gauge line

2947. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to terminate the trains running between Gwalior-Sheopur Kalan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to convert Gwalior-Sheopur narrow gauge line;

(d) whether this work is likely to be undertaken in the budget of 1997-98;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). No, Sir. Due to constraint of resources.

(f) Does not arise.

Backlog of Employment in the Country

2948. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the backlog of unemployment in the country by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the achievement made to generate jobs for the unemployed person during the current Plan period;

(c) whether a new strategy has been adopted by the Government to create additional employment in Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The backlog of unemployment at the end of the Seventh Plan was of the order of 17.0 million.

(b) to (d). During the Eighth Plan period, labour intensive growth has been accorded highest priority, thereby generating additional employment opportunities. Accordingly, the unemployment rate which was around 3.77% during 1987-88 came down to 2.56% during 1993-94. It is expected that the strategy of employment intensive growth will be continued during the ensuing NInth Five Year Plan also.

[Translation]

Serials Mega

2949. SHRI NITISH BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Indian Culture based legendary and historical serials which have been cleared for telecast on Doordarshan at present;

(b) the time allotted to these serials on Doordarshan each month

(c) whether serial Mega has been omitted from the new rate card of Doordarshan;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government for promoting these programmes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sports Complex

2950. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of the work of the proposed Sports Complex at Barnungachi, Howrah under Eastern Railway;

(b) the estimated cost and funds made available therefor;

(c) the capacity of the Stadia; and

(d) the target period of completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Tender for consultancy services is under process of finalisation. Part estimate for consultancy is being prepared.

(b) The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 8.95 Crores and allotment of funds for the current year i.e. 1996-97 is Rs. 51.70 lakhs.

(c) The proposed capacity of the Stadium is 20,000.

(d) Three years subject to availability of requisite funds.

Electrification of Railway Routes

2951. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Government propose to electrify Chandil-Muri and Muri-Bakaro Railway route;

(b) if so, whether this section is likely to be electrified during the current year; and

(c) if so, the funds allotted for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. The works have already been taken up.

(b) These sections are likely to be electrified by March, 98.

(c) The funds allotted for the year 1996-97 for Chandil-Muri-Barkakana Electrification Project and for the Bokaro-Muri-Barsuan/Kiriburu Electrification Project which include these sections are Rs. 20 crore and Rs. 40 crore, respectively.

Vigilance Inspector

2952. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Vigilance Inspectors of Railway Board discipline-wise and number out of them completed full-term i.e. six years;

(b) the action taken by the Government to revert such staff to their Parent Cadre; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). At present there are 36 Inspectors with Vigilance Directorate, comprising of 21 from Traffic, 6 from Engineering 2 from Stores and the balance covering other disciplines.

A total of 8 Inspectors have completed six years tenure out of which three have been given extension in administrative interest in accordance with extant rules.

The process of selection for Vigilance Inspectors to fill up the existing as also anticipated vacancies has already been initiated.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Post Offices in U.P.

2953. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present number of post offices and telephone exchanges in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh are adequate;